

AFC humbled by Wycombe wonders

AFC Bournemouth 1, Wycombe W. 2: by Colin Smith

BIG John Wingate, the striker who has been unable to command a regular place in the Cherries' line-up for the last month or so, appeared in a new role last night—as a goalkeeper.

But unfortunately for Wingate, his Bournemouth teammates—and a Dean Court crowd who had been thinking in terms of that home game with Middlesbrough in the next round—this was not a night for heroics.

Wingate did well enough, but could not save his side from a humiliating home defeat against the amateur side who are reigning champions of the Rothmans Isthmian League.

Wycombe hit two second-half goals in the space of three minutes to reach the third round of the FA Cup for the first time in their 90-year history.

And there was no disputing their right to stage that Middlesbrough match on January 4.

Bournemouth failed utterly to heed the warning which was sounded on Saturday at High Wycombe, where they were lucky to survive and gain a second chance.

EARLY GOAL

Even the encouragement of a ninth minute lead, provided by a well-taken goal by Howard Goddard, failed to boost Bournemouth.

They were lucky to be ahead at half-time and, with Wingate called up as emergency keeper for the second period, were always in danger of defeat.

Kevin Charlton injured a shoulder just before half-time so Wingate was introduced in a role that he least expected to fill.

In the circumstances, the professional approach which manager Trevor Hartley had been demanding was still more imperative.

But the Bournemouth players did not answer the call. Instead, they surrendered the initiative, and eventually the game, to the visitors.

So it is Wycombe, the giant-killers, who move through to the next stage of the Cup. And the Cherries are left to concentrate on the league—which may be difficult after this shock.

METHODICAL

It all started so well for Bournemouth, with GODDARD getting his head to an obliquely-angled cross from Alan Welsh, who had a fine first half.

But the anticipated second goal was not forthcoming and the Wanderers hit back well, showing method and mobility

'They should have been ashamed'

TREVOR HARTLEY, manager of AFC Bournemouth, summed up in one word his reaction to the team's display last night. "Diabolical!" he snorted.

Then he added: "The greatest surprise to me is that some of the players were not ashamed of losing this game. They went out to a night club afterwards when I thought they would have wanted to hide away somewhere."

The Bournemouth manager complained about the attitude of his players in the cup-tie and said: "They had every incentive to play well, with the home draw against Middlesbrough and a probable 20,000 gate. But their approach to the job was all wrong."

—aspects in which the Third Division side should have held a distinct advantage.

Wycombe, a well organised and creative side, revealed all the initiative which Bournemouth so sadly lacked. Apart from that scoring header from Goddard, another effort by the same player from another Welsh pass soon afterwards, and a Brian Greenhalgh close range header during the second half, Wycombe keeper John Maskell was never in difficulty.

Emergency 'keeper Wingate was put under far greater pressure when he might have expected better protection from his colleagues.

The Cherries lacked the aggression and punch of the Wycombe wonders, who went close to an equaliser before half-time.

But the visitors were thwarted by Charlton, and by two vital interventions by Olive Payne, who cleared one effort off the line and headed another over the bar.

DANGER SIGNS

There were danger signals flying well before half-time. And when Charlton, the player who had done so much to deny Wycombe a scoring success on Saturday, did not reappear, it looked ominous.

Bournemouth were incapable of adding a second goal that might have made them secure.

But Wycombe continued to play with spirit, speed and constructive ideas. Steve Perrin, the smooth-striding school-master who played so well for Wanderers in the first encounter, again made an impression with his work on the right-wing and Keith Searle was a lively leader.

Charlton was required to maintain the form he displayed at Wycombe in order to keep the Cherries ahead at half-time.

Shortly before the break the Bournemouth 'keeper went down bravely at the feet of Mick Hollfield as he moved on to a through-ball from Tony Horseman.

It was in making this save that Charlton received his injury. But immediately after attention from physiotherapist Brian Beckett, the 'keeper was shrugging off the pain to make another fine save.

FADED PROMISE

The Cherries began the second half as though determined to break through again. But the promise quickly faded, and Wycombe took control.

In the 69th minute **MORSEMAN** clipped the ball past Wingate after moving in from the corner of the penalty box.

Wingate made a full-length save from Howard Kennedy as the Wanderers roared forward. Then in the 72nd minute the stand-in 'keeper was left powerless as a shot from Hollfield struck his team-mate **PERRIN** and was deflected into the net.

It is doubtful if even Charlton could have stopped these efforts, so the injury to the Bournemouth player should not detract from the Wycombe triumph.

They only added to their reputation last night, and delighted their 500 followers. But Bournemouth badly let down their supporters.

AFC Bournemouth: Charlton; Payne, Parodi, Howard, Delaney, Hague, Miller, Welsh, Goddard, Greenhalgh, Buttle. Sub.: Wingate.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Birdseye, Hand, Mead, Phillips, Reardon, Perrin, Kennedy, Searle, Hollfield, Horseman. Sub.: Evans.

Referee: A. R. Lees (Street). Attendance: 5,407.